/Executive Order 12036 made clear the consumers' primary responsibility to set priorities for the Intelligence Community. The NITs are the formal expression of these consumer priorities. The big difference between the NIT process and those it replaced--such as the Key Intelligence Questions (KIQs)--is that guidance in the past has been prepared by the Intelligence Community based on what it assumed were the policymakers' needs.

The NITs actually include two separate sets of priorities:

-- Topics of Basic Interest intended to guide the

development of capabilities for collection,

research, and analysis over the longer term;

-- the more specific Current Interest topics that

tell intelligence collectors and producers what

top policymakers need over the next six to nine

months.

The lists are reviewed and updated by the PRC(I) every four months to keep them current. The principal voice in the updating process is, again, that of the policymaker.

Since their inception, the NITs have served as a basis for reviewing analytical production programs to ensure that the output is responsive to the policymakers' questions. The NITs are also guiding the preparation of more specific and detailed intelligence requirements, particularly those contained in DCID 1/2, in order to give the collectors as precise guidance as possible./